IN THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims appears as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A carrier for a developer for developing an electrostatic image, comprising core particles having a weight average particle diameter of 48 to 50 μm, and a resin layer comprising a crosslinked silicone resin;

wherein said resin layer covers each of said core particles and comprises carbon particles having a number average particle diameter of 0.01-0.1 μm.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a weight average particle diameter of 25-65 μm and such a particle diameter distribution that that portion of said carrier having a particle diameter of less than 37 μm but no less than 26 μm accounts for 1-60 % of a total weight of said carrier.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a weight average particle diameter of 35-60 μm and such a particle diameter distribution that that portion of said carrier having a particle diameter of less than 37 μm but no less than 26 μm accounts for 10-50 % of a total weight of said carrier.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a specific resistance of 10^9-10^{15} Ω·cm.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carrier has an induced magnetic moment of 40-85 emu/g in an applied magnetic field of 1 KOe.

Claim 6 (Original): A developer for developing an electrostatic image, comprising a dry toner, and a carrier according to claim 1.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): An image forming method comprising the steps of:

contacting an image forming member bearing an electrostatic latent image thereon with a developer according to claim 6 to develop the latent image with the developer to form a toner image on said image forming member;

transferring said toner image to a transfer member;

collecting the toner and the carrier remaining on said image forming member after the transferring step; and

recycling the collected toner and the carrier for use in the contacting step.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming member adapted to bear an electrostatic latent image thereon;

means disposed adjacent to said image forming member for forming an electrostatic latent image on said image forming member;

a developing mechanism having a vessel containing a developer according to claim 6 for developing the latent image with the developer to form a toner image on said image forming member;

a transferring mechanism for transferring said toner image from said image forming member to a transfer member;

a collecting mechanism located downstream of said transferring mechanism for recovering the toner and the carrier remaining on said image forming member; and

a recycling mechanism for returning the collected toner and the carrier to said vessel.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the coating layer is about 0.1 – 1.5 μm.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of the coating layer is about 0.2 – 1.0 μm.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein said carrier has a weight average particle diameter of 35-60 μm and such a particle diameter distribution that that portion of said carrier having a particle diameter of less than 37 μm but no less than 26 μm accounts for 10-50 % of a total weight of said carrier.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein said toner comprises a binder resin and a coloring agent.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 13, wherein the binder resin comprises a thermoplastic resin.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 13, wherein the binder resin comprises a polymer which comprises a monomer which is selected from the group consisting of a styrene, a vinyl ester, an α-methylene aliphatic monocarboxylic acid ester, an acrylonitrile, a methacrylonitrile, an acrylamide, a vinyl ether, a vinyl ketone, a N-vinyl compound, and combinations thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner is magnetic.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner is non-magnetic.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 13, wherein said toner further comprises a charge controlling agent and a releasing agent.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner has a weight average particle diameter that ranges from 4.0 - 7.5 μm.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A developer for developing an electrostatic image as claimed in claim 6, wherein the toner is present in an amount of 0.5 to 15% by weight based on a total weight of the toner and the carrier.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS

The Specification is amended in order to provide antecedent basis for the term "a crosslinked silicone resin." No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment, since this term is inherently supported in the original disclosure.

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are pending. Previously presented Claim 12 was canceled in the amendment filed January 27, 2005.

Claims 7-8 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Thus, Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-20 are under consideration.